

U.N. panel finds Israel not living up to obligations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A United Nations committee has found that Israel has not fulfilled its obligations to protect the life and security of Palestinians living under its rule despite its status as a signatory to related international conventions.

The U.N. Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination meeting in Geneva Aug. 1-19, noted that Israel is a signatory to the International Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and as such is obliged to respect the convention's provisions with regard to "everyone falling under Israel's jurisdiction," including the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

"... Israel was thus obliged to fully protect the life and security of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories," said the committee in a final statement, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times by the U.N. Information Service.

The committee "regretted that Israel had not submitted the urgent report requested to March and requested the government to expedite its... periodical reports" which were due in 1991 and 1992.

The committee "regarded Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as not only illegal but obstacles to peace and to the enjoyment of human rights by the whole population of the region."

Also reviewed by the committee were the situations in Egypt and Sudan in the Middle East as well as the rights of the aboriginal peoples in Canada and Australia, rights of foreigners in Iceland, "racist and xenophobic" acts in Luxembourg, and "increased racism in Spain."

On Egypt, the committee said it welcomed oral explanations provided by that country's representatives as to the Cairo government's adherence to the international convention on racism, but it "requested further information on the demographic composition of the population and on the defini-

(Continued on page 6)

Clinton calls Iraq and Iran 'key obstacles' to peace

WASHINGTON (USA) — President Bill Clinton has described Iran and Iraq as "the two key obstacles" to a more peaceful future for the Middle East.

U.S. policy, he told the international convention of B'nai B'rith, is to "weaken and isolate" those countries and "those who reject a more peaceful future for the peoples of the troubled region."

The president spoke to the group, which was meeting in Chicago, via a satellite transmission from the White House.

Mr. Clinton said Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's "war against his own people" and his campaign of harassment and intimidation against relief workers and United Nations inspectors demonstrate why international sanctions against Baghdad must be kept in place.

"The true nature of Saddam Hussein's regime remains unclear," Mr. Clinton declared. "Relief workers and weapons inspectors face constant harassment and intimidation. Terrorism plagues the Iraqi people."

tion of racial discrimination" as stipulated in the convention.

The committee expressed "concern about terrorist attacks," some of which it said could be "of a xenophobic nature, and their consequences on the Cairo government."

That was a reference to the wave of attacks on foreign tourists. By definition, the committee is also concerned about attacks on Coptic Christians by Egyptian Muslim extremists since such actions are seen as racial discrimination.

The committee called on the government of Sudan to adopt measures aimed at "building confidence between the Arab and non-Arab communities and expressed its support for its efforts to end the continuing conflict with the aim of restoring the rule of law and respect for human rights..."

That was a reference to complaints by southern Sudanese of "discrimination" by the mainly Muslim Arab north against the mostly African Christian south. Such "discrimination" is cited by the southerners as the main reason for their taking up arms against the Khartoum government in the decades-old civil strife in the country.

The committee welcomed the recent information programmes to inform immigrants of their rights and the government's decision to involve non-governmental organisations in the dissemination of information against intolerance, racism and xenophobia.

It noted with concern that racist and xenophobic acts, though few in number, had been committed and "that the state party had not yet taken sufficient measures to

keep the 20th century at bay.

Under the outward-looking, British-educated Qaboos, Oman was catapulted into the modern age and has prospered under his rule.

Oman has largely evaded the upheavals of Islamic fundamentalism of the last 15 years.

The royal family and most of the sultan's subjects belong to the little-known Abazi sect of Islam.

Iran, which shares control

RUSSIAN-PALESTINIAN TALKS: Mr. Posavayko met with Israeli leaders on Friday but his call for a Russian role in determining the future of Jerusalem was turned down by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (see page 1 for peace process and Russian role in the region, one) (AFP photo)

Oman arrests fundamentalists

BAHRAIN (AP) — Security forces in Oman have smashed a militant Muslim fundamentalist group and arrested some 200 people, including government officials and military men, diplomatic sources reported Thursday.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the detainees included two undersecretaries and a large number of army officers with at least the rank of colonel. Some police officers also were arrested.

The group was apprehended about six weeks ago, the diplomats said.

It was not clear why the authorities in Oman, long considered on the most politically stable countries in the region, have not officially disclosed the arrests.

But the diplomats said that an official investigation is underway in Muscat, the capital, primarily to determine whether the group had links with Muslim extremists in other countries.

The diplomats said that

Egypt's intelligence service was instrumental in uncovering the fundamentalist plot, but did not elaborate.

No other details were immediately available, and government officials could not be reached for comment.

The diplomats said that Omani authorities are indicating that the militants were not planning to seize power in the sultanate and that the southern end of the Gulf, but were seeking to stir anti-government agitation.

Anti-government literature was found on the men, they said.

Oman, a oil-producing country of two million, has been ruled by Sultan Qaboos since he took power from his father, Sultan Said Ben Taimur, July 23, 1970.

The old sultan, who had ruled from 1952, was a traditionalist who had kept Oman in the dark ages.

Despite the discovery of oil in 1964, it banned schools, radios, music, dancing, spectacles and even trousers and books in an attempt to

keep the 20th century at bay. Under the outward-looking, British-educated Qaboos, Oman was catapulted into the modern age and has prospered under his rule.

The Japanese government recently signed an agreement with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to help finance the training of Palestinian electrical engineers at the authority's centre outside Amman.

The latest aid of \$10 million is out of the \$200

Japan gives \$10m food aid to Palestinians

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan is donating \$10 million to food aid to the Palestinians as part of the Tokyo government's annual contribution to the U.N. agency that offers services and help the Palestinian refugees, the Japanese embassy here said Thursday.

A press release from the embassy said an agreement was signed in Vienna by Kanisawa Kanmei, Japan's ambassador to international organisations in Vienna, and Iker Turkmen, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA), which is based in the Austrian capital.

The aid, which will be used to buy flour to be distributed among Palestinian refugees, takes Japan's contribution to UNRWA to more than \$110 million since 1970.

"Japan has so far extended a number of financial and technical cooperation through U.N. organisations, including the girls' primary school in Beqaa camp and special training courses for Palestinian engineers," the press release said.

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Japan is an active participant in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace and is involved in key projects in the environment and tourism industry. It is also helping develop desalination proposals as a means to address the chronic water shortage in the Middle East.

Ben Laden said to have left Sudan

BAHRAIN (AP) — Osama Ben Laden, an exiled Saudi Arabian of Yemeni origin who is widely reputed to be the leader of Islamic extremists, may have left Sudan after a two-year stay, a Gulf newspaper has reported.

The Sharjah-based daily Al Khaleej, which is distributed in Bahrain, said in a front-page report from Khartoum that Ben Laden headed for London.

Quoting unnamed "informed Sudanese sources," the newspaper said he travelled from Khartoum on a Sudanese diplomatic passport.

The sources declined to say whether Ben Laden's departure from Sudan was permanent or temporary.

There was no immediate confirmation from Khartoum on the report.

But if it is correct, it could indicate that after handing over "Carlos the Jackal" to France last week, the hard-pressed Sudanese government may be trying to gain international goodwill by pushing out other fugitives.

Sudan's Islamic regime, aided by Iran, is reputed to be harboring fundamentalist extremists, including groups involved in extremist campaigns in Algeria and Egypt.

The U.S. State Department last year added Sudan to its list of states which support international terrorism, joining Iraq, Libya, Syria, North Korea and Cuba.

At that time, Mr. Ben Laden surfaced in Sudan, where he reportedly became a prominent leader of the Arab Afghans.

His family, based in Jeddah on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, issued a statement early this year disassociating themselves from him and his reputed terrorist links.

In a rare move, the Saudi government stripped him of his citizenship and froze his assets, reputed to be worth millions of dollars. But he is believed to have large accounts stashed in foreign banks.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25 Amsterdam (KLM) HILWAIR RAILWAY TRAIN Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Amman 5:30 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Up/over price in fils per kg.

Apple 650/450 Banana 650/450

Banana (Mukhammar) 650/450

Carrot 120/70 Cucumber (large) 180/100

Carrot (small) 370/270 Eggplant 180/100

Fish 450/350

Garlic 900/700

Grapes 280/200

Lemon 480/380

Marrow (large) 200/100

Marrow (small) 420/300

Mulukhia 140/70

Okra 1100/800

Orange 500/300

Onion (dry) 270/200

Plumb 700/500

Sweet Melon 180/120

Pepper (hot) 250/180

Pepper (sweet) 260/180

Potato 450/300

Tomato 120/70

String beans 700/500

Watermelon 70/35

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Ahmad Qureya,
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In 1988, the NHF under
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Queen visits Ramtha, discusses expanding NHF garment industry project in Mafraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her
Majesty Queen Noor
Thursday visited Al Hassan Indus
try City in Ramtha to attend
celebrations on the occasion
of the anniversary of His
Majesty King Hussein's
accession to the Throne.

The Queen opened an
exhibition of Jordanian products
manufactured at Al
Hassan Industrial City. The
exhibition displayed products
from 20 local factories including
ceramics, handicrafts,
plastics, furniture, foodstuff
and detergents, some of
which are exported to other
Arab countries and to the
United States.

The products illustrated
significant industrial growth
which generates employment
and income, benefits the people
and promote development.

Queen Noor met with
handicapped children from
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gifts to them.

Following performances by
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Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday distributed gifts to handicapped children in Ramtha during a visit to the area to attend

ceremonies marking the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne. (Photo by George Crystal)

project, which was initiated in 1985 by the Catholic Relief

Organization.

The Rayah Project trains local low-income women to

sew, and provides them with employment and income to enable them to become self-reliant.

The project provides the women with educational information on health, nutrition, family care and home economics.

The Queen commended the workers and directors for their efforts and discussed ways to expand the project to

employ a larger number of local women, to increase production to include both tenders and direct marketing and to extend production to the home.

Queen Noor was received by Imam Mofit, development and planning advisor to the Queen, Ismail Al Jarah, acting governor of Irbid, Aref Abu Karaki, district officer of Ramtha, Adnan Shamayleh, director of border, the chief of police, members of the Lower House of Parliament and other officials.

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The King called for enhancing and protecting national unity.

The King noted that the PSD efforts have gone beyond national borders to cover different parts of the world. "Your colleagues' distinguished presence at the international level and participation in the peace-keeping operations have won them our pride and the respect and appreciation of the international community," the King said.

He added that the security and stability Jordan enjoys provides the opportunity for everybody to contribute and participate, through Shoura (consultation), democracy, the Constitution and the National Charter, in shaping the present and future.

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Bombay hit by general strike after killing Hindu nationalist

BOMBAY (R) — Supporters of two hardline Hindu parties stoned buses and trains in Bombay Friday to enforce a general strike called to protest the killing of a local political leader.

"There are several cases of stoning in the city but there is no major trouble," a police spokesman said, adding there were no reports of casualties.

Witnesses said hundreds of supporters of the opposition right-wing Hindu Shiv Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were marching the streets, waving saffron flags and hurling stones at passing vehicles.

The BJP and Shiv Sena called the strike in this city of 12 million people, India's financial capital, to protest against the killing Thursday of Ramdas Nayak, the BJP's Bombay chief.

Mr. Nayak, 49, was shot dead in a western suburb by two men on a motorcycle who riddled his car with bullets from an AK-47 rifle.

Mr. Nayak's bodyguard also died in the attack, which shocked the country. The driver and two passers-by were injured.

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao condemned the killing as a savage and uncivilised act.

BJP President Lal Krishnan Advani, due to come to Bombay for Mr. Nayak's funeral, attributed the murder to what he called the

criminalisation of politics.

A series of shootings in India's commercial capital has been linked to Bombay's organised crime gangs. Its victims include politicians and businessmen.

A state government official said the strike began quietly

Friday with little sign of trouble, but there were growing reports of violence as BJP and Shiv Sena supporters tried to enforce the strike.

"They are trying to stop suburban trains at some places," the official said.

Witnesses said the protesters were stoning trains and had damaged signal lights on suburban railway tracks.

Last year another BJP leader, state legislator Premkumar Sharma, was also shot by motorcycle assassins. Press reports said he had fallen foul of criminals involved in Bombay's construction industry.

Barely a month earlier a member of the Memon family, reputed to have formerly been a powerful criminal gang in Bombay, was arrested Thursday.

Mr. Chavan said federal police arrested Abdul Razzak Memon and three of his sons, Isa, Yusuf and Suleiman, each of whom carried a reward of 100,000 rupees (\$3,175).

Detained along with them were Hanifa, Abdul Razzak's wife, and Rubina, Suleiman's wife, for whom there was a reward of 25,000 rupees (\$800) each, Mr. Chavan said.

It shot to prominence in the last parliamentary elections in May 1991, winning 180 out of 544 seats after campaigning for a temple to be built to the Hindu deity Ram on the site of a mosque at Ayodhya in northern India.

Zealous BJP supporters razed the mosque in December 1992, provoking nationwide Hindu-Muslim riots in which 2,000 people, mainly Muslims, died. Much of the bloodshed was in Bombay.

Police believe Muslim mafia-linked gangs took revenge for the riots, exploding bombs in Bombay last year.

Meanwhile, Indian police have arrested four more alleged masterminds of the bombings that killed about 260 people in Bombay in a single day last year. Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan told parliament Friday.

He said the members of the Memon family, reputed to have formerly been a powerful criminal gang in Bombay, were arrested Thursday.

The Shiv Sena has fought elections together with the BJP on a common platform preaching a revival of militant Hinduism. Their electoral alliance, however, has since ended.

The BJP, India's main opposition party, is gearing up for crucial elections to 10 states between November and next March.

100-day mourning period delays N.Korean succession

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea has delayed announcing its designated leader Kim Jong-Il because of a 100-day mourning period for his father Kim Il-Sung, according to reports Friday quoting Chinese and South Korean officials.

"North Korea held a fateful meeting of its ruling Workers Party" on July 20

and decided on a 100-day mourning period," a senior Chinese official was quoted as saying in a telephone interview with South Korea's respected newspaper, Dong A.

"Therefore, the announcement of Kim Jong-Il's succession to his father's posts will probably be made only after the mourning period ends on

Oct. 16," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The delay in announcing the junior Kim's succession as president and party general secretary has triggered speculation here and abroad that there might be resistance to the father-to-son succession.

South Korea's intelligence agency, the National Security Planning Agency (NSPA),

confirmed that the North had set a 100-day mourning period for government leaders and party cadres.

Shin Sang-Woo, chairman of the National Assembly information committee, said NSPA Director Kim Deok told the committee that the succession might have been delayed because of the mourning period.

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counter terrorism.

Carlos is in a Paris jail, formally under investigation for a 1982 bombing in Paris in which a pregnant woman died and 63 other people were injured. Dossiers on other attacks are also being investigated.

"Police officers will no longer be threatened by gangs and thugs with easy access to deadly assault weapons designed only for war. Violent criminals are going to learn quickly that the revolving

door on our prisons has been locked and bolted shut," he added.

It was the first major crime bill passed by Congress in six years.

Republicans had blocked a final vote on the \$30 billion bill since Monday, trying to get the majority Democrats to allow a vote on their amendments to cut the bill by at least \$5 billion and make it

passage of a \$30 billion crime bill.

Democrats claimed Republicans were acting on behalf of the National Rifle Association, which wanted the bill defeated because it has 19 semi-automatic weapons.

In addition to the gun ban, the bill would authorise funds for 100,000 local police over five years, more prisons and crime prevention programmes and would lock up for life anyone convicted of three violent crimes. It would also extend the federal death

penalty to 60 crimes.

"It's a fair, strong, well-crafted bill. This bill is right for the American people," Senate majority leader George Mitchell said.

Had the point of order been sustained, the bill would have been killed.

"I regret that I failed as a leader to keep the Republicans together," Republican

leader Bob Dole said.

Kentucky Democrat Wendell Ford said the crime issue had become a "hot horseshoe" for Republicans, who have claimed they are tougher on crime than

Democrats.

"Selectively exposing women's anatomy (e.g. breasts, cleavage, thighs, etc.) in song and dance numbers, through suggestive and flimsy dresses, movements, and zooming particularly in close shots." The government has been facing protests over increased levels of sex and violence in films. It recently asked the board to redefine its definition of vulgarity. Last month film stars protested against the move.

Clinton scores win with crime bill

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton is celebrating one of the biggest legislative victories of his first two years in office with final passage of a \$30 billion crime bill.

Clinton signed the bill into law on Aug. 5.

Clinton had been pushing the bill through Congress since last December, when he signed a

comprehensive crime bill into law.

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Features

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poll shows Rabin challenger on rise

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, his popularity apparently hurt by a new tax proposal, would face a close fight from his top challenger if elections were held today, a leading Israeli pollster said on Friday. The Dahaf survey of 514 Israelis, conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, gave Mr. Rabin support from 45 per cent, while opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu of the right-wing Likud party was given support from 44 per cent, and 11 per cent had no response. *Yedioth Ahronoth* newspaper, which published the survey, quoted pollster Mina Zemach as saying Mr. Rabin's popularity was apparently harmed by events surrounding his surprise decision to impose a capital gains tax on share profits on the Tel Aviv stock exchange from Jan. 1. Asked to explain his sudden change of mind last week, Mr. Rabin said prime ministers should not be expected to tell the whole truth when speaking of a devaluation of new tax policy. Israeli elections are scheduled for November 1996.

Morocco invites Rabin to economic summit

TEL AVIV (AFP) — King Hassan II of Morocco on Friday invited Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to an economic summit to Casablanca, the premier's office said. An envoy of the king delivered the invitation, the office said, without naming the official. The Oct. 31-Nov. 1 summit is being held under the patronage of U.S. President Bill Clinton and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin, whose countries sponsor the Middle East peace process. The unprecedented economic summit of North African and Middle Eastern countries, to be chaired by King Hassan II, has been organised by the World Economic Forum, which meets each year in the Swiss resort of Davos. Earlier on Friday, Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said he had been invited to Tunis, along with several Arab ministers, for a conference on protecting the Mediterranean in early November.

Small plane crashes in India, killing 4

NEW DELHI (AP) — A small aircraft crashed in northern India, killing four people, including an official of the federal environmental ministry, a spokesman said Friday. The accident occurred Friday night on a flight from Bhopal to New Delhi, and the plane was found upside down in a flooded farm field in upper Madhya Pradesh state, the spokesman said. The fatalities included the ministry's additional private secretary, Ashok Nair, an unidentified engineer, and a pilot and co-pilot, the spokesman said on condition of anonymity. Nair was returning from Bhopal, where he had made arrangements for Environmental Minister Kamal Nath to tour the state Saturday. The cause of the crash — which crushed the unidentified aircraft — was not immediately known, police said.

Body of German in 'flying boat' crash found

ANKARA (R) — Police have found the body of a German man, missing after his "flying boat" plunged into the Mediterranean off the southern Turkish coast three days ago. A police official in Antalya said on Friday the body of Ralph Odenhall, 38, was discovered after it washed up on shore about four kilometres from the scene of the accident. Odenhall and compatriot Martin Schmidt plunged into the sea from 100 metres after their boat, suspended like a gondola from a triangular glider wing, got caught by a sudden change of wind. Schmidt died on his way to hospital.

Army rescues Lebanon's tourist sites

BEIRUT (AFP) — Hundreds of Lebanese army recruits, armed with shovels and rakes, have come to the rescue of the country's tourist sites which are overrun with weeds. Around 300 recruits kicked off the campaign on Thursday in Baalbek, a stronghold in eastern Lebanon of Hizbullah, the army command told AFP. Under a scorching sun, they razed the temples of Jupiter and Bacchus. The clean-up operation will take 1,500 recruits to Phoenician, Roman and Omriad ruins in Byblos, north of the capital, the Tyre hippodrome in southern Lebanon, and ancient sites newly uncovered in downtown Beirut. Local tourists have taken a renewed interest in the sites but the country still awaits the large-scale foreign tourism which it attracted before the 1975-1990 war.

Israel Military Industries plans 1,200 layoffs

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Military Industries (IMI) plans to lay off 1,200 of its 5,000-strong work force because of a drop in sales, the Haaretz daily newspaper said on Friday. Since IMI was converted from an arm of the defence ministry to a state company in 1990 of \$79 million compared to an operating loss of \$87 million in 1992, IMI officials were not available for comment. The newspaper said the government was going to help the company cover retirement expenses for the laid-off workers. It said a government committee checking the IMI's strategic plan was considering closing the company and spreading its functions among other security bodies, but this was unlikely. IMI, hard hit by post-cold war defence cuts, said its work force dropped to 5,620 in 1993 from 7,228 in 1992 — compared with 11,150 employed in 1990.

Suspicious fires ravage Istanbul forests

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Fires believed to have been started by Kurdish rebels have devastated large tracts of forest around Istanbul, city officials said Friday. Turkish authorities suspect Kurdish guerrillas lit the fires deliberately in revenge for the army's alleged scorched-earth policy in rebellious Anatolia. The fires broke out at Kemerburgaz, on the European side of Istanbul, and on the Isle of Burgaz, in the Sea of Marmara. On Thursday and Sunday, fires devastated woodland Anadolu Kavagi and Kilyos, on the Asian side of the Bosphorus. About 600 hectares have burned in the past fortnight, most of it around Pyrazkoy, on the Asian side of Istanbul, on Aug. 15. Authorities said Abdullah Ocalan, head of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), threatened in October to set fire to forests in western Turkey this summer in retaliation for what he called the army's destruction of land in mainly Kurdish southeastern Anatolia. PKK, which heads a Kurdish insurrection centred in southeastern Turkey, said the army burned thousands of hectares to prevent guerrillas from hiding there.

Japan cites terms for Security Council seat

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan is willing to become a permanent U.N. Security Council member but wants international support as the voice of non-nuclear power in the body, press reports Friday quoted Foreign Minister Yohei Kono as saying. "Japan should not avoid its responsibility in the international community," Mr. Kono said in a speech Thursday at a hotel in Hiroshima, according to major dailies including the Mainichi and Asahi Shimbun. The Mainichi said it was the first time that the foreign minister clearly showed Japan's willingness to become a permanent member. He stated three conditions before Japan joins the United States, Britain, Russia, France and China as permanent Security Council members, including a world consensus which supports the inclusion of non-nuclear countries such as Japan. The only country ever to be attacked with nuclear weapons, Japan is also seeking support from fellow Asian countries that pacifist ideas should be reflected in the United Nations, and a consensus among the Japanese people for its council membership.

U.N. to reduce Somalia force

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council decided Thursday to cut the number of U.N. troops in Somalia by 1,500 and did not rule out a total withdrawal if a political settlement were not reached soon.

The decision came after gunmen believed to be members of General Mohammad Farah Aideed's militia massacred seven Indian peacekeepers and wounded nine others Monday.

In an unanimous statement read by Chairman Yuli Vorontsov, the Security Council said the slayings were a "premeditated attack" and members approved the reduction that will bring the force down to 17,200 men.

Mr. Vorontsov also raised concerns over the lack of progress in peace talks between Somali clans, stressing that continued international support and the peacekeeping mission was conditioned on reaching a political settlement.

In a non-binding statement, the council supported Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's recommendation to reduce the size of the Somalia mission from 18,700 troops to 17,200 by the end of September, and to 15,000 by late October.

"The nature and duration of the international support and resources... including the continuing presence of peacekeepers, depend very much on the resolve of the Somali parties to achieve political compromise," the Security Council said.

The council expressed grave concern regarding the deteriorating security situation and deplored attacks and harassment of U.N. peacekeepers and other international personnel.

The New York Times reporting Friday the United States plans to withdraw the last 80 U.S. diplomats and Marines from Somalia by mid-September because of rising violence and dim prospects for peace there.

Quoting unnamed State Department officials, the Times said the Clinton administration saw little progress in peace talks between rival Somali clans, and believes the usefulness of the U.S. presence in Somalia has expired.

"We don't see any signs... of a breakthrough in the next several months and the security risk doesn't seem to merit the cost to stay anymore," a senior State Department official said.

Marines were first sent to Somalia in December 1992. At the height of the operation there were 26,000 U.S. troops deployed in the Horn of Africa state. The last combat forces left in March.

Maj. McDonald said reports indicated that there were other Somalis killed at the ambush scene.

PFLP scolds Sudan, vows to back Carlos

BEIRUT (AP) — A Palestinian group has reportedly castigated Sudan for turning the Venezuelan-born Carlos the Jackal over to France and pledged to support him "at all costs."

"What the Sudanese government did is a revolting immorality that constitutes a betrayal to the traditions of Islam and the Arabs," said Salah of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) was quoted Friday in the conservative newspaper Al Diyar as saying.

Mr. Salah, longtime senior aide to the PFLP's Damascus-based leader George Habash, did not spell out how would the group help Carlos, who was taken to Paris Aug. 15 after his capture in Sudan. Carlos faces several murder charges in France.

It was with the PFLP that Carlos, 44, whose real name is Illich Ramírez Sánchez, gained notoriety in the 1970s, teaming up with the group's foreign operations bureau chief, the late Wadih Haddad, to stage the decade's most spectacular attacks.

"We are bound to attack Carlos at all costs because he has given so much to the Palestinian cause," said Mr. Salah.

The daily said it interviewed Mr. Salah at his home in Beirut's Mar Elias Palestinian refugee camp several days ago.

Haddad and Carlos orchestrated the 1976 hijacking of an Air France jetliner to En-



VICTIM OF VIOLENCE IN BOMBAY: The wife and family members of slain Bharatiya Janata Party leader Ramdas Nayak weep before his body on Friday, one day after he was assassinated by unidentified gunmen in the

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1994 7

Amman Cultural Meeting controversial from within

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With Jordanian and other Arab participants, the third Amman cultural meeting dealing with the cultural movement in Jordan has its cultural theme as "the role of cultural press in developing the criticism movement."

Among those presenting working papers to the meeting which started Monday and ends Saturday, were critic Dr. Hussein Jum'a, poet Tamer Riyad, and writer Ramadhan Rawashdeh, winner of 1994 Najib Mahfouz Prize.

In his paper, Dr. Jum'a surveyed the importance of "Afkar" magazine, which is published by the Jordanian government, its role, on the cultural, intellectual and creative life in the Kingdom, and the Jordanian cultural message it takes to Arab and foreign countries.

Dr. Jum'a believed that Afkar magazine supports the creative effort and stimulates hidden talents in order to help develop the cultural movement in Jordan and to objectively criticise its products.

By embracing all kinds of art — from the simplest sayings to the most complicated long studies including poetry, lyrical ballads, novels, plays and criticism — Afkar magazine aims at culturally and mentally educating its readers, said Dr. Jum'a.

The Poet Riyad, 38, in his testimony paper, introduced his career, and his attempts to be a poet.

"My first collection of poems was published in 1983; the second 'Mud Rites' was published in 1985, and the Third 'Crippled Stick' in 1988," said the poet. "But none of my works was studied by Jordanian critics. The

task of criticism is very sensitive. It is the power that motivates creativity. But 'the first 84 issues of Afkar did not deal with criticism seriously although it became a tradition until the issue 106 when Mu'mi Razzaz became its chief editor, who stopped such a trend,'" said Dr. Jum'a.

"The 85-to-106 issues were rich with deep-rooted studies and valuable critical sense. Some of the issues deserve to be reread."

In short, Afkar enriched, consciously or unconsciously, the criticism movement and helped raise the level of artistic and intellectual literature, he argued.

Although Dr. Jum'a's research introduced a thorough survey about the role of Afkar presentation, left a lot to be desired in terms of presentation and pinning down the audience.

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Nevertheless, all Jordanian writers attending the meeting agreed that critics used to be shallow in their judgement and that they do not study any piece of art thoroughly to the extent that makes them able to write about it.

But even now, the debate about whether or not music is permitted in Islam has not been settled.

Female singers in Iran can now perform in public, but only if no man is in the audience or the orchestra. That poses great difficulties, since all-female orchestras are virtually non-existent.

When appearing in public, all women must wear a chador, a loose sheet that covers the body from head to foot, or a head scarf and loose smock that hides the female form.

After the revolution most Iranian musicians fled the country. The musical diaspora now enjoys nostalgic tunes about the beloved homeland from London, Paris or Los Angeles, which has emerged as the hub of Iranian popular music.

Mazieh, who is known only by that single name, met Iranian exiles in Paris and now supports the Iraq-based Mujahedeen Khalq, the main Iranian opposition group that seeks to overthrow the Islamic regime in Tehran.

Last week she met Mujahedeen leader Maryam Rajavi, the woman the rebels call Iran's "future president."

"Under the mullahs, Iranian women do not and cannot have any role in society. But I hope that by the grace of God, Mrs. Rajavi will one day lead the way to dignity," she said.

"Until the rule of the mullahs remains I will not return to Iran, because the regime is anti-art, anti-women and anti-everything," the diva vowed.

Iranian diva: Mullahs are anti-art and anti-women

NICOSIA (AP) — Mazieh, once the grand dame of Iranian music during the Shah's reign, vowed Tuesday never to return to the homeland she recently forsook until the hardline Muslim clerics who rule it are overthrown.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution which overthrew the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, she and other singers and musicians have been barred from performing in public by the Islamic regime.

"After the revolution the clerics ordered us to shut up. They told me that 'no man who is a stranger is allowed to see you or hear your voice,'" the 70-year-old singer said in a telephone interview from Paris, where she arrived from Tehran three weeks ago.

She said she left Iran aboard a commercial flight and without difficulty. Her husband stayed behind, but she refused to discuss that.

Her reason for finally leaving Iran was because "an artist cannot just isolate herself and sit in a corner, as I have done."

Just as the cultural revolution in China treated artists and intellectuals with disdain, soon after coming to power Iran's fundamentalist rulers announced that artists whose works did not promote Islam had no place in the new order.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the revolutionary patriarch who died of cancer in June 1989, issued sweeping orders banning music, and only years later changed his mind.

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Analysts see bright future for gold

LONDON (R) — Gold has glittering future but analysts who predict market movements based on graphs of past prices say the bulls may have to wait at least a year before it really takes off.

"There is every reason to believe that, based on gold's performance over the past three or four years, the market is very capable of sustaining much higher prices," said Cliff Green, technical analyst with Trend Analyst Ltd.

The gold price, currently a little over \$380 an ounce, has been struggling unsuccessfully to get back to its summer

highs of last year when a speculative rush boosted it to \$409.

Mr. Green, who bases his analysis on market cycles, forecasts a longer-term target for gold somewhere in the mid-\$350s, "although he admitted that the timing of any rally was more difficult to judge."

"We are talking about something happening in a year's or even two years' time. It's certainly not just around the corner," Mr. Green said.

Bullion has been held in a narrow trading range be-

tween \$368 and \$395 all this year and, according to analysts, is showing little sign of breaking out either side in the near term.

"We are still in a long extended consolidation of a base pattern that started last December," said Anne Whithby of Chart Analysis Ltd.

But analysts say its current price is expected to give the market a base from which to attack and possibly break through recent highs over the next few months.

Gold last traded above \$500 in December 1987, be-

fleeting the global stock market meltdown.

But the rally was short-lived and during the following year prices slipped back below \$400.

The market's nadir came in March last year when gold fell in London at its lowest point for seven years at \$326.10.

"That low effectively completed the bear cycle and we are slowly seeing signs of coming out of that now," Mr. Green said.

Ms. Whithby said that a significant price rise was possible this year but more

likely during 1995.

She said the market could target \$425 initially and then \$450 before surging further.

"I would be very surprised if we didn't test \$500 at some point," she said, adding that even higher prices were possible.

"But there is a lot of resistance up around the \$500 mark," she said, referring to the peaks around \$500 reached in early 1983 and December 1987.

Chart analyst Brian Marber of Brian Marber and Associates said gold's current technical picture fulfilled

some of the criteria for the existence of a bull market.

"It still needs to prove itself," said Mr. Marber, pointing out that, since August last year, the January and then the June highs this year have been successively lower.

And other analysts predicted a more minor rally, closed to the present.

"I can see gold going to perhaps \$490 within the next six months but then the market will bomb out (fall)," said Robin Aspinall, chief strategist at Panmure Gordon.

Italian premier vows to tackle pensions bomb, deficit

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi Friday pledged swift action to cut Italy's huge deficit and vowed to tackle its generous pensions system, which he said risked driving the country into bankruptcy if left unresolved.

In an attempt to boost confidence in his shaky coalition after a summer of bickering among his political allies, media tycoon Berlusconi warned Italians they would be called on to make sacrifices to rescue the country from its economic plight.

The conservative prime minister reassured nervous financial markets that his austere budget — which to save \$33 billion in 1994 and 1995 — would be ready to go before parliament well before the end of September.

But it was made no secret of the fact that a large part of the savings would have to come from changes to a system that has given Italians higher pensions than almost anywhere else in the world in return for less work.

Mr. Berlusconi said existing benefits would not be touched, but indicated that those coming up to retirement would not be able to expect the same treatment.

"We must restructure the sector to stop the state from going bankrupt," he told a news conference held before his cabinet met to work out how to stop the drain on government finances.

This year alone, the government will have to pay out some \$70 billion (lire \$47 billion) to state pensions body INPS to help it meet its existing obligations to pensioners.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 27, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

The Taurus Moon trines Mercury, Neptune and Uranus bringing mental ability and a good common-sense mentality, making a positive time to discuss and conduct business affairs that go to the heart of your consciousness.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 27, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

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HOROSCOPE

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That is about one-third
of his year's 154 billion
(\$102 billion) total budget.
The shortfall being
government spending and
come. The haemorrhaging
in coming years
more people retire and
take up jobs and pay
tributions.

Options facing the government
include raising the
retirement age by five years
for men and 60
years.

It can also extend the
qualifying period for
pension, which for
many of state employees
is 32 years, and reduce
your for those who
retire.

The constant drain
of money has been made
over decades of abuse of
system by a discredited
old guard, which has
disabled allowances
turn for votes.

The budget is the
social item facing the
government of media
tycoon and will give
an opportunity to
him that his coalition
is strong and united enough
to take tough decisions.

In a clear damage
exercising, Mr. Berlusconi
backed the governor
of Italy, Amato,
the target of a
sabotage by the neo-Fascist
National Alliance.

Allegations by senior
figures in the coalition
that the bank was subvert-
ing government with
its interest rate affected
disputes on financial
markets.

There cannot be
doubt the government's will
to protect the autonomy of
Italy," Mr. Berlusconi
said.

OPE
AUGUST 27, 1994
Carroll Righter FOX

regret it later. Enjoy
favourite for relatives

2A: (September 23 to
22) Handle routine
in the day and bring
order at home. Plan
to present income tax
est.

RPIO: (October 21
to 22) Study to
improve your
position and figure
out a way to improve
your property. Your
home will hold its
value.

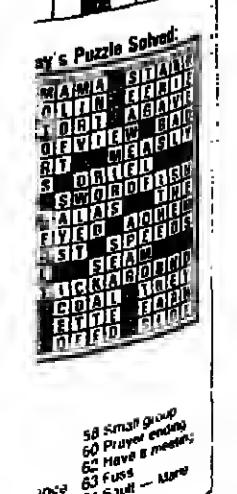
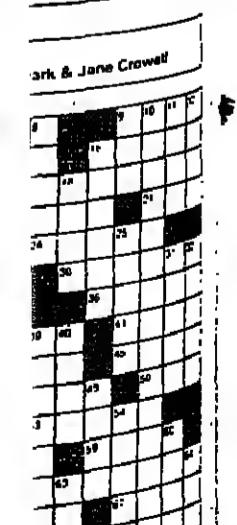
TTARIUS: (November
21) Plan to
improve the quality of your
idealistic concepts
this a most productive
ur life.

UCORN: (December 21)
Making plans
day to gain your
wishes. Take it easy and
express happiness with
ones.

ARIFUS: (January
19) Get in touch
with friends who can help
a delicate problem. Be
care of your health to
remain productive.

SS: (February 20 to
21) Plan how to make
your right and then
have a good life
for happiness in your
ur life.

st:
Quartz



Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets		
Current:	New York Close Date 26/8/94	Tokyo Close Date 25/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5535	1.5565
Deutsche Mark	1.5460	1.5475
Swiss Franc	1.3023	1.3050
French Franc	5.2950	5.3035*
Japanese Yen	98.99	99.55
European Currency Unit	1.2310	1.2361**

Government Interest Rates		
Current:	1 MTH	3 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.50	4.68
Sterling Pound	4.75	5.12
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.75
Swiss Franc	3.93	4.06
French Franc	5.25	5.37
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.08
European Currency Unit	3.53	5.79

Interest rates for amounts exceeding 1,000 Dollars 2,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Current:	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0766	1.0820
Deutsche Mark	0.4415	0.4507
Swiss Franc	0.5319	0.5346
French Franc	0.1310	0.1317
Japanese Yen	0.6976	0.7011
Dutch Guilder	0.3994	0.4014
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0442	0.0444
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

For 100

Other Currencies		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.1270	1.1410
Lebanese Lira	0.040855	0.041935
Saudi Riyal	0.1850	0.1862
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3450
Qatari Riyal	0.1895	0.1910
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2170
Oman Riyal	1.7850	1.8030
LAE Dirham	0.1885	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.2345	0.2355
Cypriot Pound	1.3925	1.4945

For 100

India allows foreign drug firms majority stake

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, reviving stalled economic reforms, has approved a medical drugs policy allowing a majority stake for foreign firms and easing price controls, officials said.

The pharmaceutical industry was one of the key sectors still under government controls since Mr. Rao launched a radical economic liberalisation programme in 1991.

"It's one step forward but not far short of the industry's expectations," said Anant Thakore, president of the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association, India's largest industry association with over 800 member companies.

"The government is over-cautious and does not want to deregulate this sector, as it has done other sectors of the economy," he told Reuters.

The policy would allow foreign drug makers a majority 51 per cent equity stake in companies to make bulk drugs, which are a key input in medicines.

The government would also reduce the number of bulk drugs that can be made only by state-owned companies and reduce the number of drugs that cannot be sold above government-specified prices from 142 to

140.

Industry executives say this means domestic firms protected by current law need to invest in research to compete with foreign firms.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and Bullion Markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3713/23	Deutschmarks
1.5429/39	Dutch guilders
1.7326/36	Swiss francs
1.3017/27	Belgian francs
31.78/82	French francs
3.2897/47	Italian lire
1.5687/70.2	Japanese yen
99.05/15	Swedish crowns
7.6018/18	Norwegian crowns
6.7758/09	Danish crowns
6.1187/37	
\$1.5545/55	
\$383.30/383.80	

Investors continue to zero in on AFM's service sector shares

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — Stock prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) dipped and volume also declined last week as investors sought to turn their holdings into service sector shares in anticipation of gains that hotels and other tourism-related entities stood to gain as a result of a boom in tourism, brokers said Friday.

The weekly report of the AFM said 3.7 million shares worth JD 9.9 million changed hands under 4,357 contracts during last week, marking a 20.2 per cent decline in volume from the previous week's JD 12.4 million.

Mr. Thakore said the setting of a new ceiling was a retrograde step which amounted to penalisation of the industry if it produced more. "This is uncalled for because competition has been bringing prices down," he said.

India, under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) world trade pact, is committed to changing its patent laws to allow patent protection.

The IMF for the average dollar rate in August was below 35,000 lira. Now the monthly average rate is very likely to remain below 32,000," Mr. Torner said.

The lira recovered late Thursday after the central bank raised cash rates and sold dollars to end the turmoil triggered by high currency rates quoted by the bank.

The dollar, which hit 35,362 lira Wednesday, fell to below 33,000 lira Thursday. It opened at 32,500 lira Friday.

Bankers say high central bank reserves have strengthened confidence in the lira, battered by the economic crisis which erupted in January.

Turkey has agreed year-end monetary targets with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It wants the U.S. dollar to stand at or below 38,000 lira by the end of 1994.

"The projection given to

JD 1.82 million, or 18.4 per cent, and insurance stock with JD 34,000, or 0.3 per cent, the AFM report said.

"There is visible trend among investors to shed acquisitions in industrial and commercial bank stocks and move the liquidity to the service sector," said a broker.

"That explains the drop in prices in those sectors."

At the same time, a few service sector entities are seen as not holding out any immediate prospects of gains, and the decline in prices of those entities are reflected in the overall sectoral drop in prices, said the broker, who cannot be identified under AFM guidelines.

Brokers said stability had returned to the market after several months of uncertainty prompted by doubts cast on the economic prospects for Jordan from the Middle East peace process.

Shares of 78 companies were traded during the week,

with nine of them showing gains, 58 losing and six remaining stable.

Last week's Jordanian-Palestinian talks and the public cordiality between the two sides were not expected to bring about any major changes in AFM trends, brokers said.

"Seeing is believing," said the broker. "Investors have heard a lot of talk about economic cooperation and megaprojects between Jordan and the Palestinians, but their experience is that those talks have not materialised into projects."

As such, said the broker, "investors are focusing more on events and expectations related to Jordan itself than the Palestinians in the short term."

"They would turn to take benefit of Jordanian-Palestinian projects only after proposals are turned into concrete projects on the ground," he pointed out.

Turkey's central bank chief sees stable lira

ANKARA (R) — Central bank governor Yaman Torner said the big swings in the value of the lira in the last three days would not undermine Turkey's monetary targets.

Exceeded 56.5 billion Thursday — the highest since Dec. 17. The bank also holds gold reserves worth about \$1.5 billion.

Officials say the bank, which has already overshoot the end-1994 target pledged to the IMF by some \$2.5 billion, aims to exceed the \$7.2-billion-level.

The turmoil preceded big payments by the treasury to service domestic debt, which started Thursday. Nervous banks pushed up demand for the dollar, anticipating a September crisis as repayments on government debt flood markets with cash.

But Mr. Torner insisted the currency would remain stable. "We are well prepared for the excess cash in September," he said.

Bankers say high central bank reserves have strengthened confidence in the lira, battered by the economic crisis which erupted in January.

The central bank has been building up reserves steadily since April when the government launched an IMF-endorsed economic plan.

Reserves, which fell to a low of \$3 billion in April,

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Although they have dropped by around four per cent since the end of 1992, foreign assets by the UAE's 47 banks remained above 40 per cent of their total assets of 155.2 billion dirhams (\$42.28 billion) at

Perkins leads triumphant Australians to Rome

VICTORIA (R) — World record breaker Kieren Perkins leads a confident Australian swimming team to the Rome World championships next month after they all but swept the board at the Commonwealth Games, winning 26 gold medals.

Perkins capped a triumphant six days of competition by breaking his own 1,500 metres freestyle world record, taking the 800 record on the way.

And the Olympic champion predicted the records would not last long.

"I'd like to think I could go faster in Rome," he said, while his coach John Carew felt his charge could shave at least another two seconds off his mark of 14 minutes 41.66 seconds.

Perkins said he would also concentrate more on the 400 in Rome after coming within 0.77 or a second of the world record here.

"The swim here was way beyond my expectations, even though the final 50 metres was not that fast. I can swim the last lap a lot faster than that," he warned his American and European rivals.

The 21-year-old television presenter, a millionaire and a household name at home will race the 200, 400 and 1,500, his gold medal events at these games.

Apart from Perkins and team mate Samantha Riley in the 100 breaststroke, times were generally slower than expected at the new Sananich Commonwealth place pool.

"Maybe everybody at the back of their minds is holding back a bit with the world championships looming," Perkins said.

Fredericks seeks satisfaction in 200m

VICTORIA (AFP) — Namibia's Frankie Fredericks rebounded from his disappointing fourth place in the 100m to cruise through the first round of the Commonwealth Games 200m here on Wednesday.

But Fredericks, the 200m world champion, was slower in winning his heat than world silver medalist John Regis of England, and both were served warning by Nigerians Daniel Effiong and Kayode Oluwemi who were the only men to break 21

seconds in the first round.

Fredericks was looking forward to proving himself in Friday's final, especially against Regis, who nearly missed the games with an Achilles tendon injury.

"All the best runners in the Commonwealth are here," Fredericks said. "I haven't won a Commonwealth medal and I'm hoping I'm not going to be fourth again. I just have to forget that race and move on."

Tuesday's full athletics programme featured nine fin-

Hong Kong says goodbye to Commonwealth Games

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — Hong Kong says goodbye forever to the Commonwealth Games this weekend.

When the final 53 athletes to represent the crowded, bustling British colony walk into Centennial Stadium Sunday for the closing ceremony, they will head towards an uncertain future under Chinese rule.

"It will be quite emotional, I would imagine," said Rosemary McMahon, a lawn bowler participating in her third Commonwealth Games. "We'll probably have a tear in our eye."

On June 30, 1997, one year before the next Commonwealth Games, some 150 years of British rule will end for Hong Kong and it will be ceded to China.

"Under the agreement, the 5.9 million people of Hong Kong are to retain their economic and social system. The multi-million dollar sports programme will remain intact and Hong Kong will participate in the Asian games separately from China. But its Olympic future is uncertain.

Canada, traditionally Australia's keenest rivals in the pool at the Commonwealth Games, came away with a single gold from Stephen Clarke in the 100 free, though they went close in several races, particularly the men's medley with Curtis Myden.

Their performance was a disappointment to a fiercely partisan crowd but not unexpected because of their inexperienced squad.

"They have a good couple of years to build and for the Olympics in 1996 they should be right on," said Andrea Nugent, retiring Canadian veteran of three games.

"There are a lot of vets retiring and a lot of new people coming up," added Nugent who won the 50 metres silver medal here.

New Zealand, who picked up one gold through Danyon Loader in the 200 butterfly, will be looking to the 19-year-old Olympic silver medallist for their best showing at the worlds.

"They're not shedding any

It is that prosperity that will keep China from making any major changes, many predict.

Sonny de Sales, outgoing president of the Commonwealth Games federation who has lived in Hong Kong since 1929, said non-British foreign companies are anxious for the transfer.

"They're not shedding any

qualifying, putting paid to South African hopes of lifting a swimming gold in their first Games in 36 years.

Wednesday's schedule was less crowded, with medals to be decided in women's shot put and 10,000m the decathlon and the men's 5,000m.

Australian swimmers were on course for a clean sweep of the golds in the last day of swimming competition at Stanch pool.

Marianne Kriel crashed out of the 50m freestyle with a disastrous performance in

qualifying, putting paid to South African hopes of lifting a swimming gold in their first Games in 36 years.

Karen van Wirdum was fastest in Kriel's event with 26.00 sec and Aussies headed qualifying going into all the remaining finals — men's 200m individual medley, 1,500m free and 4x100m free, and the women's 200m butterfly and 200m backstroke.

The staid greens of the lawn bowls centre saw spectacular action on Wednesday morning when New Zealander Judy Howat bounced back from 11-0 down and 22-12 down to pull off a 25-24 victory over England's Norma Shaw.

The result opened up section A in the women's singles round-robin, in which Northern Ireland's Margaret Johnston and Scotland's Joyce Lindores are also in the hunt. All have won four matches out of five while the women's competition wide open in section A with Northern Ireland's Margaret Johnston and Scotland's Joyce Lindores also in the hunt.

Lindores leads the section from 1990 bronze medalist Johnson, Shaw, then Howat, who have all won four out of five. The winners of section A and B qualify for the championship match.

"I guess Houdini would have been proud of that," Howat said of her victory over Shaw. "When I was trailing 11-0, I thought I was going to lose 25-0."

Earlier Mansher Singh claimed India's second shooting gold of the Games.

"I owe it all to my wife Minal," he said. "Ever since I got married two years ago, I have been shooting better."

Welsh shooter gains revenge

VICTORIA (AFP) — Michael Jay gained revenge over a pair of Australian marksmen here Thursday, coming from behind to win Wales' first shooting gold of the 15th Commonwealth Games.

The 44-year-old won the individual rapid fire pistol title, pushing Australians Robert Dowling and Patrick Murray into second and third.

"I am delighted, absolutely delighted," said Jay. "After losing the gold in the pairs, I knew I had to go out and win this one."

Dowling, 48, and Murray, 49, won the pairs title over Jay and Richard Craven.

Dowling was three points clear of Jay at the end of qualifying with a score of 575. Englishman Stanley Wills and Nigel Freedland were also ahead of the Welsh shooter.

"The more pressure I felt, the better I shot," Singh said. "That last bird I missed because I was down from a real high, but I knew I had won it."

He tossed and turned in his bed all night, he said, but there was no tension in the morning.

"When I went out there, I was very positive. I told myself I was going to kill it."

It was the second gold medal for India after the centre-fire pistol team title won by Ashok Pandit and Jaspal Rana on Sunday.

Prince Bolkiah of Brunei finished 38th in the trap, in which shooters fire with 12-gauge shotguns at four-inch clay targets thrown from an underground bunker.

A Cyprriot sign-painter and a Sri Lankan army sergeant won gold and silver in the air rifle event.

S. Africa wins first gold in 36 years

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — South Africa's 36-year victory drought at the Commonwealth Games ended emphatically Thursday with two gold medals.

The golds came in the men's and women's fours in lawn bowling and were South Africa's first at the games since 1958, when it won 13 golds, 10 silvers and eight bronze.

Some athletes may join the exodus of people leaving Hong Kong. Others who stay behind face the prospect of becoming part of the giant Chinese sports system.

"That may have its advantages because it gives us a chance to improve a lot," said swimmer Robyn Lamsam.

"But, first we would have to get past the Chinese swimmers, and that would be really rough because there are so many Chinese athletes who are so strong."

Pang Chung, head of the Hong Kong delegation to these games, is confident the athletes will benefit from the changeover. He said that the departure from the Commonwealth "is not a big issue from the sports point of view."

The nostalgia at these games seems largely limited to the older members of a team where the ages range from 12 to 70.

"Maybe the old athlete has this kind of sad feeling," Pang said. "I think the youngsters are all looking forward to competition in their own field."

Hong Kong's departure has not gone unnoticed in Victoria.

They are worried about the future of human rights under a Chinese government that was responsible for the massacre of students at Tiananmen Square in 1989.

"Nobody would like to see Hong Kong change too much," McMahon said. "It's such a fantastic, prosperous place."

It is that prosperity that will keep China from making any major changes, many predict.

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games, Zashe predicted.

"We said we would win 10 medals at the Games," he said. "We have four to go."

If there are to be four more, they will have to come in track and field, the only sport South Africa still has competitors remaining.

The chances rest with pole vaulter Okkert Brits, 800-metre runner Hezekiel Sepeng, 1,500-metre runner Johan Lansdorp and women's high jumper Charlene Weaver.

Zashe said South Africa had hoped to win medals in swimming and boxing, but those chances already were dashed.

Winning the gold in women's lawn bowling was no surprise, he said, but winning the men's event was unexpected.

"We thought we were strong in women's lawn bowling," he said. "But we didn't appraise our men properly. They were a pleasant surprise."

He said he expected a tremendous reaction from the people of South Africa when they hear about the golds.

"They'll be ecstatic," he said.

Meanwhile, Australian Michael Murphy completed a remarkable run in men's diving by winning the 10-metre platform event with 644.700 points.

Earlier, the confident 20-year-old from Brisbane won the 3-metre event and finished second in the 1-metre competition.

Robert Morgan of Wales, the 1990 champion, finished a distant second with 585.960 points.

Australians also swept both race walks, enabling the country to sweep into the medal lead in track and field

at the games.

Kerry Saxby-Junna, a 33-year-old tour guide, led the way in the women's 10-kilometre walk in 44 minutes, 25 seconds.

"I wanted to get the gold medal again," Saxby-Junna said, after breaking the games record of 45:03 she set in winning the gold medal in the first women's walk event in 1990 at Auckland, New Zealand.

"I put much pressure on myself. The more stressful an event is, the better I compete."

Australian Nicholas A'Herne won the men's 30k walk at 2:07.53, only six seconds off the games record of 2:07.47 set by fellow Aussie Simon Baker in 1986 at Edinburgh, Scotland.

"I pushed myself to some where I've never been before," A'Herne, 25, a hairdresser, said. "That's a personal best for me by a few minutes."

The two gold medals gave Australia five after 16 track events. England, the overall track and field medals leader with 13, has four golds.

David Morgan gave Wales two golds in weightlifting, winning the snatch competition with a Commonwealth record 147.5 kilograms and the overall title in the 76-kilogram class. The gold in clean and jerk went to Damion Brown of Australia.

In boxing, Canada landed three fighters into the finals with the semifinal competition half over.

Stephen Gallinger of Canada completed the afternoon session of boxing by stopping Ezevili Ndlovu of Zimbabwe at 56 seconds of the third round in their 91-kilogramme bout.

Doyle bids for bike glory

VICTORIA (AFP) — First there was Chris Boardman and his Barcelona super-bike, then Graeme Obree and his pedal-powered washing machine. Now there is Commonwealth Games medal hope Tony Doyle, and the most expensive bicycle ever built.

"All told, it cost 50,000 pounds to develop," says English pursuit cyclist Doyle. "It's a thoroughbred."

The 36-year-old should know, after a 14-year professional career that has included the highs of two pursuit world titles and the low of a high-speed racing crash which almost killed him.

His bike, developed by Aston Martin — makers of the handbuilt luxury cars favoured by James Bond — is an amalgam of the latest state-of-the-art technology, designed to snatch precious micro-seconds during Doyle's search for double gold here.

The success by the bowlers is not the end of the South Africans' medal haul at the Commonwealth Games.

"I have made them in track and road races and I have a lot of time and respect for both of them. But I won two world titles and four European crowns and have been at the top level for a while now."

He is not worried about the lack of recognition: "I have a lot to be thankful for. In 1989 I had a crash while racing in a six-day event in Munich and landed on my head. It was touch and go. I suffered multiple fractures of the skull, shoulder, elbow and arm and ended up in a coma."

"Then they dropped me off the stretcher down some concrete stairs while taking me to hospital. I needed speech therapy and had to learn how to do everything again — how to shave, eat and walk."

A year later, however, he returned against all the odds with his hospital doctor, who could not believe his rapid recovery, cheering him on in the crowd.

Doyle wants to write another chapter to that happy ending here. "The Commonwealths — and the bike — are the new challenge I needed. I want to go home with two medals. Golds, preferably."

The story began six months ago, when Doyle was measured up and thrust into a

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Injuries create a U.S. 'wide' Open

NEW YORK (AFP) — Injuries to Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf, the world number ones and defending champions, have put both the U.S. Open titles up for grabs when the \$9.36 million event begins here Monday.

Sampras pulled out of his final hardcourt tuneup with a left ankle injury. Tendinitis pain limited Sampras to two Davis Cup matches since his Wimbledon triumph last month.

His lingering pain could open the way for other top seeds such as Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, Spain's Sergi Bruguera, Sweden's Stefan Edberg, Germans Boris Becker and Michael Stich or U.S. veteran Michael Chang.

"We don't have a clear-cut favourite," sixth seed Chang said, "that will create a very interesting and very exciting Open."

"A lot of guys are capable of winning the Open — Becker, Edberg, Goran — and I put myself up there with the rest of that bunch."

Australian Open winner Graf has struggled with a back injury, while Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez have won the past two Grand Slam titles.

"I have had lots of rest and physiotherapy," Graf said, "hopefully it will be fine for the Open."

Add fourth seed Mary Pierce of France and fifth seed Kimiko Date of Japan and there could be four different women's Slam winners this year.

"It's hard to say if someone else can win, but there are a lot of players who could," Sanchez-Vicario said. "Everything depends on how people play. For fun, I would say Steffi, Conchita and Mary Pierce (will join me in the semi-finals.)"

The 108th Open, worth \$550,000 to the winners, features plenty of men in pain besides Sampras. World number two Ivanisevic pulled out of his final tuneup event

with a sore hip. "I don't feel so great," Ivanisevic said. "I wanted to get some confidence. Having to retire before the U.S. Open is not great for your confidence."

Third seed Bruguera, the French Open winner, has had a leg injury. Number nine Todd Martin has struggled the past month with a groin injury.

"There's a big difference between Pete Sampras coming off an injury and Todd Martin doing the same."

"People walk on the court and say, 'Jesus, that's Pete Sampras' regardless of whether or not he's injured. I'm confident Pete will come off the whole thing and be in top form."

Sampras has won four of the past five Grand Slam events. He has won eight titles, including the Australian Open and Wimbledon, and more than two million dollars in winnings.

"It's frustrating," Sampras said. "This is not the preparation I was hoping for, but I will have to make the best of it. I will not be without pain, but I will make an attempt."

Sampras, who won the 1992 Wimbledon crown with a strained shoulder tendon, remains the favorite. Chang said.

"Maybe he won't be playing his best tennis, but the scary thing about Pete right now is that he is still able to win even when he is not playing his best," Chang said. "He is still very dangerous."

Andre Agassi is unseeded here for the first time since 1987 while Jim Courier, the world number one before losing here to Sampras a year ago, has fallen to the 11th seed. Courier said he might skip the event, but a three-day rest rekindled his love for the game.

"Events like the Open are what I'm playing for, so I'm starting my second career after three days off," Courier said.



His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid (wearing cap) is surrounded by Bisharat Golf Club (Photo by Rama Husni)

Golf competition is held for charity

By Rama Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Commonwealth Golf Team Friday was crowned winner of the annual Nations Cup Competition, topping eight other teams that participated in this charity event held in aid of Jordanian paraplegic sportsmen and sportswomen.

The 18-hole competition held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid, took place at the Bisharat Golf Club, the only club in Jordan, established in 1990.

The one-day-event saw 36 players divided into nine four member teams. The four men who represented the Commonwealth Team were Bill Richardson, Terik Afridi, Dernant

Keegan and Shishar Duta. They totalled 190 points to capture the first place.

England came in second. Richard Lyons, Roger Sykes, Neil Bailey and Richard Lewis totalled 203 points.

The Jordanian team, represented by Hanafi Abu Hawa, Yousef Musalam, Sami Swiss and Adnan Tabaqaji placed third, at one point differences from the British team totalling 202 points.

The individuals longest drive was awarded to Nid Wards and the nearest hole award went to Mr. Duta.

"I am happy to see a big turnout," Prince Ra'ad said following the announcement of the final results.

"This year's competition is special because it is for charity," added the prince, addressing the players and a crowd of about 200 who had come to witness the event.

The charity event raised JD 5,000 and was donated to the disabled in Jordan.

"The amount donated is not important as much as the spirit that everybody showed in coming here to help make this event successful," Prince Ra'ad said.

More than 16 companies, individuals and players donated money for the event, among them Marriott Hotel, British Airways, Lufthansa, Hertz Car Rental and the Forte Grand Hotel.

Roger Allen from the construction company Higgs and Hill, and Mr. Bailey from the British embassy, organised this year's event. They told the Jordan Times that "our first aim is to raise money for the handicapped in Jordan."

Sports leaders to draw up 21st century blueprint

PAIRS (R) — World sports leaders meet to draw up a blueprint for the Olympic Games of the 21st century as they tackle the thorny issues of programme changes, doping and major International Olympic Committee (IOC) reform at the first Olympic Congress to be held in 13 years.

The week-long congress, to be opened on Monday by French President Francois Mitterrand, will also celebrate the centenary of the modern Olympic movement founded in Paris by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, whose 14-year tenure of office has already wrought radical reforms which would leave de Coubertin barely able to recognise the present-day Olympics as an idea he spawned, is set to keep his foot on the accelerator for further change.

The congress, which groups not just IOC members but also international sports federations and national Olympic committees from around the world, is likely to see a heated debate on which sports should be included in the programme from the 2000 Sydney Summer Games onwards.

Samaranch has indicated he expects triathlon and taekwondo to take their places as medal sports, but there may be support for other innovations, including a controversial one in golf, seen by some as an elitist pastime with no place in the games.

The real controversy, though, may be over which sports face the axe to make way for the newcomers. Boxing, once under serious threat, looks set to survive but modern pentathlon and synchronised swimming enthusiasts can anticipate a nervous week.

The IOC has loudly proclaimed its leadership in the fight against drug cheats but, amid signs that victory is far away and may even be receding, there could well be calls for a rethink in the approach to one of sport's greatest cancers.

Though the Olympic body has successfully persuaded international federations to carry out random tests and harmonise penalties on offenders, IOC plans to bring an extra weapon in blood testing have run into technical snags.

The congress will look for fresh ideas to counter the argument, increasingly heard, that drug use is now so

ingrained in sport that the fight may as well be abandoned, as it was against professionalism and commercialism.

The biggest battle on Samaranch's hands, however, is likely to come should he decide to bite the bullet of reforming the structures of the IOC, and widening its membership.

Stung by criticism in Norway during the Lillehammer Winter Games in February that the IOC was undemocratic, Samaranch said reforms were likely at the congress, an idea guaranteed to make the traditionally conservative 90-strong membership wary.

Samaranch has made it known he would like to bring in international federation presidents and cut some of the present members to make the IOC a stronger body and the undisputed leader of

world sport.

There have also been suggestions that members should be elected for fixed terms rather than retain their seats until the age of 75 as under present rules.

Such radical moves would be fiercely resisted in some quarters and could undermine the unity of the Olympic movement which has been patiently welded by Samaranch's quiet diplomacy.

The Olympic movement comes to this congress much more unified than at the last one in Baden-Baden in 1981 when we were between boycotts," an IOC source said.

"This congress will show whether the unity is real or whether it has been achieved by discouraging criticism, which could suddenly erupt here."

The congress, staged at the ultra-modern La Defense area just outside the French capital, is preceded by a three-day meeting of the IOC's Executive Board starting on Friday.

Congress decisions will go before a full meeting of the IOC at its two-day session opening on September 5.

But should radical moves engineered in Paris next week become enshrined in IOC policy, they could soon be forgotten as outside forced dictate new directions.

One of the findings of the 1981 congress, laid down in black and white in the final statement, was that: "There is no place in the Olympic Games for professional or open competition."

bridge University boat crews they need not turn up, Chirac has his lip and paid up.

No wonder Tokyo turned down the offer of putting the show on. Paris was volunteered by ex-French National Olympic Committee president Nelson Pailou who expected to be repaid by being made an IOC member.

Instead, Samaranch decided to prolong Maurice Herzog's tenure, after reaching retirement age, by making him a vice-president, succeeding Australian Kevin Gooper who stands down after four years.

The IOC, which has \$80 million earning interest in a Swiss bank for the proverbial rainy day, has restricted itself to one gala evening — at the Bagatelle Gardens in the Versailles palace where Louis XIV's mistress Madame de Pompadour took her afternoon naps.

Two thousands people from all the sports in the Olympics will ask just where the movement is going.

The biggest changes since the last congress at Baden-Baden in Germany in 1981 are the return to the sporting fold of South Africa after the republic's first all-race elections.

tions and the collapse of the Communist sporting regimes.

Samaranch likes to think his fostering of the anti-apartheid campaigners helped tear down the apartheid barriers.

The 72-year-old Spaniard will have been IOC president 17 years when his final term of office runs out in 1997.

Samaranch says the \$80 million treasure chest is necessary to safeguard the movement if the television companies decide one day to drop the games from their programmes.

But although he may have secured the financial future of the Olympics his critics say he has let other power-hungry sports barons turn sport into a professional circus.

So far everything points to more sell-out crowds. The representatives of nine cities, from as far afield as Salt Lake City to the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, want to hold the 2002 Winter Games.

They will meet the IOC executive committee on Saturday and then get down to wine and dine the 88 members who will vote on the site in Budapest next June.

Al Ahli, Al Jazireh vie for U-18 basketball title

By Aileen Bennayem
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ahli face Al Jazireh in the final match of the under-18 basketball competition Saturday hoping to score a victory and grab another of the season's basketball titles.

In another match, Al Orthodox face Al Abbasi as they seek an advanced position in the eight team competition organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

However, titleholders Al Ahli seem very close to retaining their title after Al Jazireh surprisingly lost 56-54 to Al Orthodox.

Al Jazireh clinched their first trophy of the season when they overcame Al Ahli to win the U-22 championship and recently secured the U-14 title. Meanwhile, Al Orthodox won the U-16 competition and regained the women's title after titleholders Al Jazireh abruptly pulled out of the competition last month.

Al Ahli now lead the standings with four points. Their 74-60 win over Al Orthodox means that Al Jazireh have a very hard

task as they will now have to win by 17 points in order to win the title.

Al Abbasi seem destined to finish fourth after losing 71-63 (40-29) to Jazireh, and 77-50 (42-26) to Al Ahli.

A second division club, Al Abbasi are the newest face in top level competition and are already one of the most active of the JBF's members as they are participating in most age-group competitions.

However, Al Ahli, Al Orthodox and Al Jazireh, sponsored by Aramex, are a growing powerhouse in Jordanian basketball. In addition to the women's title last year they also clinched the youth's under-14 and under-16 titles, while their men's team finished third in the first division, and second in the under-19 competition.

Al Orthodox, who dominated the Kingdom's basketball scene throughout the eighties, are now aiming to regain their former glory which they handed to Al Ahli by losing the country's most prestigious basketball title — the first division championship.

Al Ahli ended their reign in 1990 and went on to win the title in 1992 and 1993. However, Al Orthodox's new, younger lineup of players are already giving other teams a hard time, proving that their club is still a powerhouse to be reckoned with.

STANDINGS BEFORE TODAY'S MATCHES

	P	W	L	SF	SA	PTs
Al Ahli	2	2	—	151	110	4
Al Jazireh	2	1	1	125	119	3
Al Orthodox	2	1	1	116	128	3
Al Abbasi	2	—	2	113	148	2

Chirac has to foot Olympic bill

PARIS (AFP) — Paris mayor Jacques Chirac will have to stand and smile in the Bercy sports hall next Monday when President Francois Mitterrand opens the Centennial Olympic Congress.

Chirac is livid that his city council will have to stump up an extra 10 million francs (\$1,500,000) for the five-day

shop, sources close to the organisers say.

The original budget of 60 million francs (\$11.5 million) has been split three ways, between Paris, the French state and the International Olympic Committee.

But both Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, who Chirac fears might turn into a rival at next year's presidential elections, and IOC president Juan-Antonio Samaranch refused to pay any extra.

Chirac publicly chided Samaranch at the centenary reception celebrations, telling him he thought the IOC should cut down on expenses and spend more on developing countries, notably in Africa.

But instead of telling Spanish tenor Placido Domingo, film composer Michel Legrand or the Oxford and Cam-

bridge University boat crews they need not turn up, Chirac has his lip and paid up.

No wonder Tokyo turned down the offer of putting the show on. Paris was volunteered by ex-French National Olympic Committee president Nelson Pailou who expected to be repaid by being made an IOC member.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

'Ex-head of Syrian forces in prison'

BEIRUT (AFP) — The sacked head of Syria's elite special forces, General Ali Haidar, has been imprisoned for almost two weeks in Mazzeb prison, an Arabic newspaper said Thursday. The London-based Al Hayat, published in Beirut, quoted informed sources in Damascus for its report. The daily said Gen. Haidar was dismissed because of his "repeated refusal to carry out a military order" without giving more details. Informed sources in Nicosia said last week that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had sacked Gen. Haidar and replaced him with Gen. Ali Habib, who headed Syrian units in the U.S.-led international forces which ejected Iraq from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war. Gen. Haidar had been undergoing questioning since Aug. 3 under the supervision of the head of military intelligence Gen. Ali Duha, a close ally of the president, the sources said. Al Hayat, quoting the Syrian sources, said "this measure is a disciplinary punishment and has no political implications."

Bhutto postpones Gaza visit

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto has indefinitely postponed a planned official visit next month to the autonomous Gaza Strip, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. The visit, which was to take place Sept. 4, has been put off because of "scheduling problems," and not because of rumoured obstacles put up by Israeli authorities to the visit, spokesman Munir Akram said. Ms. Bhutto, who will be in Cairo on Sept. 4 to participate in a U.N. conference on population and development, cannot meet Yasser Arafat on that date because the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief will be in Jericho for a visit by U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, he said. The Bhutto visit would have been the first by a head of a foreign government to the Gaza Strip since the installation of the Arafat-led autonomous Palestinian government there last May. Pakistan does not recognise Israel. Ms. Bhutto said Wednesday in Karachi that recognition of the Jewish state by Islamabad was "premature," and that such a move would not be possible until the status of Jerusalem was fully settled.

Cairo to abide by ruling on school veils

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's education ministry will abide by a court ruling that blocked government attempts to curb Islamic influence in schools. A Cairo administrative court on Tuesday ordered the suspension of a ministerial decree prohibiting girls from wearing the Islamic veil to school without written permission from their parents. "The ruling is binding and it must be implemented," Education Minister Hussein Kamel Bahaaeddin told the opposition Islamic paper Al Shaaah on Friday. "If the law gives us the right to appeal, then we will appeal, we are studying the issue," he added in his first public response to the ruling. The court said the school uniform was a "general freedom" that the Egyptian constitution protects. It also said the minister went beyond his powers by issuing a decree that could only be passed by parliament. He issued the decree last May, after the school year ended, in an attempt to curb growing influence of Muslim extremist teachers. He said the law was to ensure that schoolgirls were not being forced to wear the Islamic dress code for women that covers everything except the face and hands. Many Egyptian schools have adopted the veil as part of the school uniform.

30 dead in fiery Turkey coach crash

ANKARA (AFP) — Some 30 people were killed and a further 22 injured overnight to a road crash in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Friday. A coach crashed into the back of an army troop carrier, veered off the road and burst into flames, the agency said. All of the dead were travelling on the coach. Four soldiers from the troop carrier were also injured, one seriously. The accident happened on the road to Silvan, 70 kilometres from the town of Diyarbakir. Turkish authorities blamed the accident on the coach driver, said Anatolia.

France to expel Lebanese Muslim preacher

STRASBOURG (R) — A Lebanese Muslim preacher is to be expelled from France in the next few days, government officials said. The officials said the expulsion was not based on the religious beliefs of 41-year-old Mohammad Baroudi, who lives in Remiremont in northeast France, but to his lack of residence papers. France has expelled several Muslim preachers for suspected sympathies with Muslim fundamentalists. Mr. Baroudi lacked the necessary papers for legal residence when he arrived in France in 1993, according to local authorities. He requested a residence permit but was turned down earlier this year. He challenged that decision in court, but an administrative court upheld the local authorities in June. Mr. Baroudi appealed, but his plea was rejected on Wednesday, and officials said he would be expelled by Sunday.

Israeli general who backed Palestinians dies

TEL AVIV (R) — Yehoshafat Harkabi, a former head of Israeli military intelligence who vexed hardliners by supporting a Palestinian state and withdrawal from occupied territories, died on Friday at the age of 73. Harkabi, who had been battling with cancer, died at Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital at 1:05 a.m., the hospital said. "His passing is a great loss to the nation," former Israeli President Chaim Herzog, who succeeded Harkabi as head of intelligence, told Israel Radio. In 1988, in the early months of the Palestinian uprising, Harkabi suggested Israel do the unthinkable — negotiate with then public enemy number one, Yasser Arafat, and his Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "Reality will force Israel to retreat from the territories and to negotiate with the PLO," he said.

Sudan wants envoys named to mediating group

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has called for a group mediating in the country's 11-year civil war to appoint representatives to the next round of peace talks in Kenya on Sept. 5 to 7 to replace the group's foreign ministers. The state-owned Al Sudan Al Hadith newspaper on Friday quoted Dr. Ali Al Haj Mohammad, spokesman for the government negotiators, as saying envoys should replace foreign ministers of member countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) presiding over the talks. Dr. Mohammad, who is also the minister at the federal rule chamber, said the responsibilities of the foreign ministers made it difficult for them to take part. He said the two days set for the talks were insufficient and called for an extension. Dr. Mohammad said on Thursday that a new mechanism had to be found to replace that used in previous rounds of talks. He said previous mechanisms for dialogue had failed to bring peace. Kenya heads IGADD, a regional group mediating in the civil war between Sudan's government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. IGADD was formed by Kenya, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

Israel lifts blockade of Lebanon village

SIDON (AFP) — The Israeli army on Thursday lifted its month-long blockade of Yohmeh village near its self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, Lebanese military officials said. Soldiers filled in trenches they had dug around Yohmeh, three kilometres from the edge of the zone, to open up the road to the village. Yohmeh is situated below the Israeli army position of Beaufort Castle, which has come under repeated attack from guerrillas. Lebanon complained the U.N. Security Council about the blockade, saying it amounted to an Israeli extension of its 850-square-kilometre "security zone."

Tourist killed in Assiut attack

ASSIUT (AFP) — Suspected militants shot dead a Spanish teenager and wounded three people including his father in an ambush on Friday which rocked Egypt's efforts to repair its image as a tourist destination.

Another Spaniard and the Egyptian tour guide were wounded when four gunmen fired on a mini-bus carrying 11 holidaymakers to ancient sites in southern Egypt, officials said.

Thirteen-year-old Pablo Usan was the first tourist to be killed by militants since a German woman was shot and fatally wounded on board a Nile cruise boat on March 4.

His father Leopoldo, 46, was critically wounded in the chest and flown to Cairo by helicopter for treatment at a military hospital accompanied by his 35-year-old wife and the body of their son.

The killing came just two weeks before the U.N. World Population Conference in Cairo which has been bitterly criticised by militants but which the authorities hope will revive tourism (see page 2).

The group of 11 Spanish tourists had taken a Nile cruise and disembarked at the ancient temple site of Dendara, near the southern town of Qena.

They were being taken by bus to visit more ruins in the town of Sohag when they were ambushed near Naga Hamady, almost 600 kilometres from Cairo.

The gunmen, described as "wanted terrorists" by the Interior Ministry, fled into surrounding sugar-cane fields.

One of the Spaniards, Julio Ponce, 40, bad a bullet removed from his foot and was recovering in Luxor, a Spanish diplomat said.

The group's Egyptian tour guide, Iman Nureddin, 24, was also shot in the foot and her condition was unknown.

More than 400 people have died since militants launched a violent campaign in March 1992 to topple President Hosni Mubarak's government and replace it with a strict Islamic regime.

The militants have struck at the money-spinning tourist industry and have now killed nine tourists, scaring away foreign holidaymakers.

Tourism Minister Mamduh Al Beltaguy has said the number of visitors was down 45 per cent last year, and the security forces have carried out a massive operation to crush the militants.

Technical failure ruled out in Morocco crash amid suicide theories

PARIS (Agencies) — The head of an inquiry into the ATR-42 Royal Air Maroc accident which killed 44 people refuted Friday the theory that the crash had been caused by technical failure.

Mohammad Monifid, speaking on the Europe 1 radio station, was responding to those disputing the inquiry's findings which said the pilot had put the plane into a nosedive because he wanted to end his life.

On Thursday the Moroccan pilots' union disputed the findings of the inquiry, saying there was evidence of technical failure in the crash last Sunday near Agadir in southern Morocco.

On Friday the head of the Royal Air Maroc staff association, Mustapha Quakim, also expressed doubt about the suicide theory, saying the plane's left wing had landed nearly five kilometres from the main crash site.

Mr. Monifid replied there was a "logical and objective explanation" for this, but declined to elaborate further.

Early Friday, however, the manufacturer of the aircraft, based in Toulouse, told AFP that "all the debris of the plane was found within 450 metres of the crash."

Mr. Quakim said the Moroccan pilot of the plane was about to get married and promoted.

"These are things that would generally make someone feel life was rosy," Mr. Quakim told French radio, casting doubt on the suicide



PRESS CONFERENCE: Said Magri, a suspected Algerian militant interned by French authorities, gives a press conference on Friday from his hospital bed in Chambéry, northern France.

Mr. Magri, 28, who is on a hunger-strike, maintains he is innocent and is threatening to commit suicide unless he is released (AFP photo).

Algerian armed group forms 'alternative' cabinet

PARIS (Agencies) — The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the underground fundamentalist movements in Algeria, Friday announced the setting up of an alternative government.

In a statement to AFP the group, which has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks, said its leader Cherif Goumri, also known as Abou Abdallah Ahmad, would head the caliphate government, the name given to the Islamic administration.

A cabinet of 11 ministers listed a portfolio for Ali Belhadj, the number two of the rival extremist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) group, who is currently in detention.

The post of premier is to be held by Mohammad Said, a former FIS official who went over to the GIA last month.

The FIS was slated to win general elections which were annulled by the army in January 1992.

The interior ministry portfolio is to be held by Said Mekhloufi, a former army officer who has gone over to the FIS, while the post of foreign minister will go to Anwar Haddam, former head of the exiled FIS parliamentary delegation, the GIA statement said. Both men recently defected to the GIA.

It was not clear whether the letter was the same as one in which Mr. Belhadj last month asked Mr. Zeroual to dissociate himself from the military and quit.

"The best for you is to

resign and proclaim that you are innocent regarding this junta... otherwise their trial will be yours," Mr. Belhadj said.

It was not clear whether the letter was the same as one in which Mr. Belhadj last month asked Mr. Zeroual to quit immediately.

Mr. Zeroual resumed talks with legal opposition parties

The statement also said there would be no truce with the Algerian government and warned individual Algerians against seeking to negotiate with the authorities.

The FIS meanwhile indirectly rejected President Liamine Zeroual's call for talks to help end civil strife by demanding on Friday that he

last week and asked them to contact jailed FIS leaders to seek their help in ending the political violence.

He had invited eight parties to the talks but three strongly anti-Islamist parties, including the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), one of Algeria's main parties, rejected the invitation.

The talks follow a series

started by Mr. Zeroual's predecessors in late 1992, all of which failed to resolve the conflict in the country, mainly between security forces and Muslim militants trying to overthrow the army-backed government.

The FIS leadership in exile said Mr. Zeroual, who asked legal opposition parties this week to talk to the outlawed movement to try to put a stop to political violence, was in the pocket of the military and quit.

"We ask Mr. Zeroual to resign so that he will not be used as a shield by the military junta and its terror," the FIS leadership said in a statement received in Paris.

The statement also quoted

excerpts of a letter from jailed FIS deputy leader Belhadj to Mr. Zeroual asking him to dissociate himself from the military and quit.

"The best for you is to resign and proclaim that you are innocent regarding this junta... otherwise their trial will be yours," Mr. Belhadj said.

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the letter was the same as one in which Mr. Belhadj last month asked Mr. Zeroual to quit immediately.

Mr. Zeroual resumed talks with legal opposition parties

Gunshots fired at U.S. consul's residence

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An American diplomat's house in the Abdoun area was the target of gunshots by unidentified assailants last week, but no one was injured in the incident, sources at the American embassy said Friday.

The incident, which took place at 2:00 a.m. August 20, targeted the house of U.S. Consul Raymond Clore, a U.S. embassy spokesman told the Jordan Times.

"Three bullets were fired at his house, shattering a few windows, but none of the house residents were hurt in the attack," the spokesman said.

The spokesman added that the authorities were searching for the unidentified assailant(s), and that there were no suspects yet.

Security authorities contacted by the Jordan Times Friday said they had no information about the incident.

Residents in the area said they had heard the shots, which appeared to have come from a machine-gun. No details were available Friday on the nature of the weapon used in the attack.

It was one of the rare incidents of an attack on diplomats in Jordan.

In 1991, a group called "Jeish Mohammad," was accused of plotting attacks against foreign diplomats. Eighteen suspects were tried and sentenced to varying terms in prison.

Bosnian refugee flood seen headed for clash

TURANJ (AP) — Masses of Bosnian refugees streamed Friday towards an area that separates Serb-held Croatia from the rest of the republic. U.N. officials feared they would clash with Croatian forces determined to keep the refugees out.

Aleksa Lisienski, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said 25,000 refugees from Bosnia's northwestern corner were heading toward the Turanj crossing.

About 7,000 already were camped out near there, in a no-man's land separating Croatia's rebel Serbs from regular Croatian troops. With the Croats positioning water cannons and armoured vehicles at the transit point to prevent any breakthrough, the chances for messy confrontation were growing.

"At the moment, they say they won't let them in," Ms. Lisienski said of the Croats. U.N. officials and peacekeepers at the check-point donned flak jackets as they braced for potential violence, and U.N. police conceded that they had no control over the area.

Ms. Lisienski said a line of up to 14,000 refugees stretched from the Bosnian-Croatian border 40 kilometres northwards to the separation zone between Croat-held and Serb-held Croatia.

They were on the run from Velika Kladusa in neighbouring Bosnia, where forces loyal to Muslim rebel leader Fikret Abdic were routed by the Bosnian government army last weekend.

The Bosnian government has pledged there will be no reprisals if the refugees returned. But the refugees con-

COLUMN 8
Delta bans smoking on long flights

WASHINGTON (AP) — Delta Air Lines announced Thursday a smoking ban on its transatlantic, European and Mexico flights, becoming the first U.S. airline to completely prohibit smoking on its transatlantic flights. The smoking ban will come into effect on Jan. 1, 1995, the company said in a statement. Delta said the decision was in response to popular demand. Surveys of some 22,000 passengers on international flights showed that an overwhelming number of travellers wanted "to make their flying experience smoke free," the company said.

White House no longer amused by comic strip

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton is a favourite target of political cartoonists, often depicted with an elongated chin and a vacant stare, but as a waffle? Of all the caricatures of Clinton, Garry Trudeau may have come up with the one that slashes the deepest. In his Doonesbury strip this week, the well-known American cartoonist has been depicting Mr. Clinton as a floating waffle. To a White House source, it is already hypersensitive to criticism. After all, George Bush was the one who bore a long grudge against Trudeau for depicting him as invisible.

The incident, which took place at 2:00 a.m. August 20, targeted the house of U.S. Consul Raymond Clore, a U.S. embassy spokesman told the Jordan Times.

"Three bullets were fired at his house, shattering a few windows, but none of the house residents were hurt in the attack," the spokesman said.

The spokesman added that the authorities were searching for the unidentified assailant(s), and that there were no suspects yet.

Security authorities contacted by the Jordan Times Friday said they had no information about the incident.

Residents in the area said they had heard the shots, which appeared to have come from a machine-gun. No details were available Friday on the nature of the weapon used in the attack.

It was one of the rare incidents of an attack on diplomats in Jordan.

In 1991, a group called "Jeish Mohammad," was accused of plotting attacks against foreign diplomats. Eighteen suspects were tried and sentenced to varying terms in prison.

There is speculation that Mr. Clore might be trying to regroup his forces with the hacking of Serbs.

Refugees in the no man's land were sleeping under tents of wood and plastic sheeting. Others sought shelter from persistent rain in bombed out buildings abandoned after Croatia's 1991 war with rebel Serbs.

The U.S. ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, visited the area Thursday to attempt to persuade the refugees to return home. But virtually all appeared determined to seek refuge in Croatia.

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